

# Fertility Differentials in England and Wales

## SOME FACTS

The figures in Table 1 have been derived from the 1951 Census Fertility Volume. They show the differences in age at marriage and in family size between social classes, areas and ages at cessation of education.

TABLE 1

	SOCIAL CLASS				
	I	II	III	IV	V
Percentages of women whose marriage took place before age .. .. .	20	25	30	35	
	3	5	8	12	13
	25	36	46	54	57
	30	77	81	83	83
	35	92	93	93	93
Fertility as percentage of total national experience					
A	90	88	97	111	120
B	81	84	96	113	126
C	101	92	96	108	119

The social classes are: I Professional and Managerial, II Intermediate, III Skilled, IV Semi-skilled, V Unskilled, and these refer to the occupation of the husband. The figures shown for age at marriage relate to once-married women aged 45-49 at the census and enumerated with their husbands. The fertility bases are: A—all married women aged under 50 at the census in respect of all children born; B—married women aged 45-49 at the census, in respect of all children born; C—all married women aged under 50 at the census, in respect of children born during the twelve months ending on the census date. All fertility figures are standardised, for age at marriage at least. Comment on the implications of the fertility figures was made on page 70 in the July 1959 issue of the REVIEW.

TABLE 2

	TYPE OF AREA				
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Percentages of women whose marriage took place before age .. .. .	20	25	30	35	
	8	52	82	93	9
	9	55	84	93	54
	9	54	83	93	83
	9	54	83	93	81
	9	54	83	93	92
Fertility as percentage of total national experience					
A	98	100	98	100	106
B	99	100	98	99	103
C	98	99	97	100	106

Table 2 shows that there is little difference in experience between the various types of area, which are classified as follows: (a) conurbations; (b) towns with over 100,000 persons; (c) towns with 50,000-99,999 persons; (d) towns with less than 50,000 persons; (e) rural areas.

TABLE 3

	AGE AT CESSATION OF EDUCATION			
	under 15	15-16	17-19	20 and over
Percentages of women whose marriage took place before age .. .. .	20	25	30	35
	9	56	84	94
	4	40	77	91
	3	33	72	89
	2	30	73	90
Fertility as percentage of total national experience				
B	101	88	88	89
Average family size of wives of higher administrative, professional and managerial men .. .. .	1.56	1.42	1.45	1.68

The figures in Table 3 relate to the age of the husband on leaving school or college. For comment see Page 71 of the July 1959 issue of the REVIEW.